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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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RAILROAD PIGGYBACK TRAFFIC

SETS RECORD 3RD STRAIGHT YEAR

WASHINGTON, January 11 -- Piggyback traffic on Class I U.S. railroads in 1979 established a record for the third consecutive year, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Piggyback carloadings totaled 1,857,705, up 0.9 percent over 1978. The number of trailers and containers carried reached 3,278,163, a 3.2 percent gain over the previous year.

TOFC/COFC loadings accounted for 7.8 percent of total rail carloadings in 1979 and was second only to coal -- the traditional leader -- as a source of railroad traffic.

Piggyback traffic for the holiday week ended December 29 totaled 22,614 cars, 15.3 percent below the corresponding holiday week of 1978, and 39,150 trailers and containers, 13.2 percent lower than 1978.

The AAR also reported that all freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 5 totaled 14.4 billion ton-miles, 13.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1979. Both weeks included the New Year's Day holiday.

Total carloadings on major railroads for the January 5 week were 368,685, up 9.8 percent from the comparable holiday week of 1979, and 20.5 percent higher than the preceding Christmas week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 7.1 percent in the South and 19.3 percent in the West, but down 1.0 percent in the East. Loadings of coal were up 18,056 cars, or 25.9 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and grain loadings were up 12,276 cars, or 66.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/5/80.

	Loadings in Week ended January 5, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,884	I	12,276	66.0	I	10,256	49.7
Other farm products	3,555	D	317	8.2	I	918	34.8
Metallic ores	26,476	I	2,800	11.8	I	694	2.7
Coal	87,807	I	18,056	25.9	I	14,018	19.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,554	I	1,115	11.8	I	2,676	34.0
Nonmetallic minerals	14,449	I	2,202	18.0	I	1,634	12.8
Grain mill products	15,146	I	167	1.1	I	1,714	12.8
Food and kindred products	14,456	D	81	0.6	I	1,370	10.5
Primary forest products	17,261	I	2,633	18.0	I	6,387	58.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,127	D	2,082	25.4	I	493	8.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,781	I	1,570	9.1	I	5,345	39.8
Chemicals and allied products	26,731	I	3,082	13.0	I	3,146	13.3
Petroleum products	5,922	D	165	2.7	I	1,053	21.6
Stone, clay and glass products	13,598	I	628	4.8	I	1,634	13.7
Coke	5,508	D	1,455	20.9	D	373	6.3
Metals and products	15,654	D	1,142	6.8	I	2,889	22.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	9,415	D	6,334	40.2	I	2,492	36.0
Waste and scrap materials	9,149	D	280	3.0	I	1,576	20.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,212	D	117	1.6	I	102	1.4
All other carloads	29,859	I	339	1.1	I	4,583	18.1
LCL traffic	141	D	120	46.0	D	1	0.7
Total Cars Loaded	368,685	I	32,775	9.8	I	62,606	20.5
Corresponding week of 1979	335,910						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
Week ended January 5	14.4	12.7	I	13.1

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